



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives
Representative Michelle Ugenti-Rita (R-23)
1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007-2844

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Representative Ugenti-Rita's Legislation to Establish a Minimum Age to Marry is Signed Into Law

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Representative Michelle Ugenti-Rita (R-23) applauded the enactment of [HB 2006](#), legislation she introduced to establish a minimum age to marry in Arizona.

Previously, Arizona had no legal minimum age to marry. However, in Arizona you must be 18 years of age to legally enter into a contract, vote in an election, or purchase tobacco. You must be 21 years of age to gamble in a casino or purchase an Arizona Lottery ticket, which can cost as little as fifty cents.

As signed by Governor Ducey, HB 2006 prohibits anyone under the age of 16 to marry. Minors ages 16 and 17 can only marry if they are legally emancipated or their parent or guardian consents to the marriage and the other person is no more than three years older.

According to [The Economist](#), "Married children are twice as likely to live in poverty and three times more likely to be beaten by spouses than are married adults. Around 50% more of them drop out of high school, and they are four times less likely to finish college. They are at considerably higher risk of diabetes, cancer, stroke and other physical illnesses. And they are much more likely to suffer from mental-health problems."

"I am pleased that Arizona has finally taken the long overdue action to protect children by establishing a minimum age to marry," said Representative Ugenti-Rita. **"It is difficult for me to envision a scenario where marriage is in the best interest of someone 15 years of age or younger. Too often, child marriages are the result of manipulation for the purpose of exploitation. I would like to thank my colleagues for their support and Governor Ducey for signing HB 2006 into law."**

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